

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 24 November 2003 (24.11.03);
original claims 1 to 7 have been replaced by new claims 1 to 7; (2 pages)]

1. An IDT connector (1), comprising:
 - a base housing (3) having a plural of insulation displacement terminal (13) to which a plurality of wires (21) applied with outer insulation is press-fitted;
 - a cover housing (5) which is mounted to the base housing (3), the cover housing (5) having a plural of guide holes (29) into which the electric wires (21) are inserted;
 - a wire holder (31) for retaining the wires (21) to be inserted into the guide holes (29), wherein said cover housing (5) has wire normal-position fixing means (30) for fixing said wires (21) in a normal location within said guide holes (29) with respect to a connection direction of said wires (21); characterized in that:
 - connection of said wires (21) to said connector (1) is performed by displacing said wires (21), which are fixed in their normal location within said guide holes (29) by said wire normal-position fixing means (30), into IDT contact edges (17a) of the insulation displacement terminals (13) while retaining said wires (21) in the wire holder (31).
2. An IDT connector according to claim 1, wherein the said wire normal-position fixing means (30) includes a tapered bore (30) disposed on inner surfaces of said guide holes (29), diameters of which gradually decrease relative to diameter of said wires (21).
3. An IDT connector according to claim 1, wherein when mounting said wires (21) in a state where said wire holder (31) is being attached on said cover housing (5), said wire holder (31) is capable of being displaced to a position where said wire holder (31) does not interfere with said wires (21) to be inserted in said guide holes (29).
4. An IDT connector according to claim 3, wherein said wire holder (31) is guided by displacement guiding portions (32,38) so that said wires (21) held thereby are displaced in a parallel fashion.
5. An IDT connector according to claim 1, wherein a protective guide plate (62) for protecting the electric wires (21) is provided in an area where the wire holder (31) that is

descended crosses the guide holes (29), and the electric wires (21) are covered with the protective guide plate (62).

6. An IDT connector according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said insulation displacement terminals (13) are provided in said base housing (3) such that adjacent terminals (13) are staggered relative to each other in a zigzag pattern with respect to a connection direction of said wires (21).
7. A wire connection method for an IDT connector (1) in which wires (21) applied with outer insulation are connected to the connector (1), the method comprising:
 - a first step of inserting the wires (21) into guide holes (29) inside a cover housing (5) and temporarily locking said wires (21) by wire normal-position fixing means (30);
 - a second step of retaining said wires (21) by a wire holder (31) provided to the cover housing (5); and,
 - a third step of pressing the wire holder (31) and cover housing (5) toward a base housing (3) by applying pressure thereon from the outside to bring said wires (21) into insulation displacement contact, thereby bringing inner conductors (21a) of said wires (21) and the insulation displacement terminal (13) into contact with each other.